

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

A VERITAS CHURCH RESOURCE

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LETTER FROM VERITASKIDS DIRECTOR

Dear Families,

Veritas is so grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside you in loving your family well and pointing them toward Jesus. We humbly offer this document as a resource about family discipleship. We don't consider ourselves experts or the final authority in how families can love and worship God. Also, this document is far from exhaustive when it comes to concepts or suggested ideas. Our prayer and hope is that our knowledge and capacity to provide resources will grow over time with this document serving as a snapshot for where we began.

We have tried to be mindful of the particular needs of Veritas Church families, as well as approachable for anyone who may find the desire to be more intentional about family discipleship. Any valuable information you find within these pages most likely came from people smarter than us and from churches who have been around much longer than us.

We hope that this document empowers you and your family to prioritize time together with the Lord.

Best and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ER Perry". The initials "ER" are written in a stylized, cursive font, followed by the name "Perry" in a similar cursive style. The signature ends with a long, sweeping underline that loops back under the "y".

Emily Ruth Perry
VeritasKids Director

WHAT IS FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP?

Discipleship is the intentional shepherding and mentoring of people within the family of Christ. Jesus disciplined his twelve closest followers, and that is where we take our model. We see that he spent time with them and loved them well. He corrected them when they got off-course, and modeled a healthy relationship with God for them. We want to emulate Jesus' method for discipleship to each other in our everyday lives.

Family discipleship is this same practice of shepherding families to love the Lord, serve God and others, and develop routine behaviors which will enrich their spiritual life. Husbands disciple to their wives and parents disciple to their children. The goal of family discipleship is for every member of the family to draw closer to God in their day to day life and, in doing so, become closer as a family.

Husbands, wives, and parents have goals for their families in many areas such as financial, career, academic, or athletic. These can all be healthy aspirations, but when spiritual life is neglected or sacrificed on their behalf, we find it time to re-prioritize. Some have a desire to bring Christlike discipleship into their families, but they may not know how. We hope that this document gives biblically sound, practical suggestions for how families can grow in their love and knowledge of the Lord.

WE EXIST FOR THE FAME OF JESUS

Our Vision is to be a
church:
For the City.
For the Military.
For the Fame of Jesus.

Our Mission is to make
disciples who:
Love God.
Love People.
Advance the Gospel.

PART I

THE FABRIC OF

VERITAS

OUR VISION: TO BE A CHURCH FOR THE CITY, FOR THE MILITARY, FOR THE FAME OF JESUS.

FOR THE CITY

One of the hopes and prayers of Veritas is to someday be a long-standing, integral part of the larger Fayetteville community. If one day we were to need to disband the church, we would want Fayetteville to notice and feel the loss of this congregation. For that to be the truth, we need a broad range of people and perspectives among the body of this church. To love this city well, we need people who have grown up here and know the idiosyncrasies of this place. This means not only do we need to seek out people native to Fayetteville now, but we also need to raise our children to love this city as their own.

Veritas uses community groups as a way for people to scatter throughout Fayetteville, and to know and serve each other and this city. Community groups are not age, gender, or interest based, and that is intentional. We believe that people need to learn from others who are different from themselves. Older men and women can guide younger men and women. People of different races, nationalities, and classes can be vulnerable and learn from each other about different walks of life. Community groups are also encouraged to complete small and ongoing service projects within their neighborhood and the city at large. Within the book of Acts, the early Christians were known not only for sharing the good news of Christ, but also for their acts of

service within towns and cities. They were instructed to feed the poor, care for widows and orphans, and model good citizenship under local governments.

Parents can shepherd their children to be Godly examples to the other kids around them. We need to offer children opportunities to interact with many other kids within Fayetteville, be that through service, school, sports, parties, or events. Kids are going to be exposed to questionable things in life, and parents can combat this by fostering an open relationship with kids where they are welcome to come and ask any question without being judged. These are also opportunities for kids to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16) to their neighbors, friends, and classmates.

SIMPLE IDEAS TO LOVE FAYETTEVILLE:

- Donate to or volunteer your time at Agape Pregnancy Support Services or Operation Inasmuch.
- Care Packages for the Homeless: (Instead of giving money to the homeless, pack sandwich bags with socks, individually packaged non-perishable snacks, toothbrush and toothpaste, and a card with encouragement and scripture. Keep these handy in your car.)
- Neighborhood clean up: (With your community group, take a Saturday morning and go around the community to trim hedges, rake leaves, clean pollen off porches or cars, etc. Ask your neighbor for permission before beginning.)
- Have a block party for holidays like Halloween, Independence Day or Memorial Day (allow these secular times of celebration and relaxation be an opportunity to love people through Christ.)

HOW DOES FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP LOOK DIFFERENT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES?

While we are all followers of Christ, every church has its own identity based upon its city and population. Fayetteville is the home of Fort Bragg and the 82nd Airborne, and we want to recognize that it has a unique impact on our church body. Several of our elders are prior service members. Military families have special circumstances, strengths, and weaknesses. Being a soldier or military spouse takes a certain fortitude and dedication. Flexibility and adaptability are a necessity. The term 'living on mission' holds multiple meanings. These realities can be utilized to advance the gospel. A soldier who is not a believer can understand the concept of becoming a family outside of blood, race or class. How much more fulfilling is a family in Christ in which we can know that our brother and sister will be with us when we meet our heavenly father?

With military life comes deployments and permanent changes of station (PCS.) This makes for a very transient population. Some may see this as a negative, but Veritas looks at this as an opportunity for sending people out into the world. We are equipping and sending out missionaries across the United States and to the four corners of the world, thanks to the military. This also helps us to better support and serve each other. When someone is deployed or gone on training, the church rallies around their family.

Living as a Christian first and then as a father or mother, soldier or teacher, brother, sister, worker or athlete, allows us to focus our lives on the true mission: to be God's people and to share the gospel.

Veritas intimately understands the unique nature of military life, what that means for daily living, and what that means for family discipleship. Military families deal with unpredictable and rigid commitments, long anticipated and challenging deployments, and frequent moves. Because of this, some people may feel they are not able to engage in a church family, or they feel that the small amount of time they can dedicate to church life is not worth it. We challenge people to think differently.

Deployments, while challenging and often a strain on a family, can also be an opportunity for family ministry. This is a great time

for a couple to rely upon Christ and grow in their individual relationships with God, so they may come back together a stronger couple. While families anticipate the return of their loved ones from deployment, relate this to how Christians wait for the return of Christ and his kingdom to earth.

FOR THE FAME OF JESUS: ACTIVITY

Questions to consider and discuss with your family:

What does fame mean?

Who is someone that is famous?

What makes them famous?

Is fame a good or a bad thing?

Is Jesus famous? Why or why not?

How can we make Jesus famous? Why would we want to do that?

ENGAGE WITH YOUR FAMILY!

Have this discussion with your spouses and children.

Here is what one young believer said:

“Fame could be a good or a bad thing. It could be bad because you could be like ‘oh, yeah, totally!’ and overdo it. But it could be a good thing if lots of people know about you because you do good things. We can make Jesus famous by telling other people about him so they will know how good he is and will want to love him.” - Josie Honaker, age 10

OUR MISSION: LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. ADVANCE THE GOSPEL.

Our mission is the same for adults or children, individuals or families. Our first desire is to love the Lord and point others toward him. We want this to be reflected in all Veritas does as an organization and collection of believers. If we are seeking to know and understand the Lord, our character, words, and actions will reflect a true gratitude for our lives no matter the circumstances. The more we come to know God’s goodness and holiness, the more we understand our sinful nature and how blessed we are to be adopted as his children. Within VeritasKids, we use the

Gospel Project curriculum to teach children the story of the gospel, why and how God loves them, and why and how they should love God back. From this love for God will flow a genuine love for people. We will want to support those in need, cry with those who weep, and celebrate with those who feel joy. In VeritasKids, we love our youngest and littlest people, and show them how to love others. We pray the Spirit will empower us to show “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control,” (Galatians 5:22-23) so that we may model it for the children around us.

All believers are called to advance the gospel. Often we think of adults ministering to other adults, which is a major part of advancing the gospel and making disciples for Christ, but that is not the only way disciples are made. “Kids make disciples the same way Jesus did. Jesus, through his everyday life, sought to meet the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of those around him. Kids can do the same thing!” (Danielle Bell, Dawson Family of Faith) If we think of our families as our first mission field, then we will be intentional about family discipleship. We want to teach our children about God and Jesus Christ so they grow in their knowledge and love of God, so they may in turn point their friends and other children to Christ.

John Murphy, our Lead Pastor says, “growing up as a kid, my parents supported missionaries overseas. I have vivid memories of praying for these missionaries every week for their entire missionary careers. This was a formative experience for me growing up. Praying for missionaries for years and knowing they were around the world spreading the gospel.”

Part of Veritas' mission and DNA is to advance the gospel around the world. As a part of family discipleship, partners and children can be involved in supporting missions around the world. That involvement may range from financial and prayer support to actually going on mission as a family.

“[Discipleship is] teaching/being taught the truths of the gospel and the commands of God’s word, both through speech/the bible and a committed life of action. Intentional discipling requires leadership and its effectiveness is always proportional to the work of the Spirit. Being disciplined requires humility.” - Nathaniel Schrader

OUR VALUES: TRUTH, WORSHIP, COMMUNITY, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, AND MISSION

Truth: Jesus is the truth.

Worship: Veritas engages and equips people to worship God with their entire lives.

Community: We are a people who do life together for the glory of God.

Leadership Development: : Veritas raises up leaders who lead well in their homes and lives.

Mission: Veritas equips and plants people who are on mission in Fayetteville and around the world.

Veritas' views and beliefs about family discipleship:

- Our mission is to come alongside families. Parents and families are the primary disciplers of their children.
- Our goal is to train parents to lead well and worship with their children.
- We avoid a lot of programs and events because we want time for families to live life together and engage in their communities.
- Community groups are a resource; it takes a village to raise a child.
- Community groups are where we learn and practice how to show others (in and outside of the church) the love of Jesus.

BIBLICAL VIEW OF FAMILY AND PARENTING

God has been generous in giving us an example of a perfectly harmonious relationship in the holy trinity. We understand that as humans we are fallen, broken people who will never be perfect. However, we can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, grow in our love and understanding for our family members. The first and most valuable thing we can do for our families is to solidify our priorities. Glorifying and loving God should be our first and

most important desires within our heart. Even before we love our spouses, we need to love God. If we are loving and depending upon our husbands or wives before God, then we are idolizing them, and this sin creates a whole host of issues within our marriages.

After putting God first, we need to love our spouses. Ephesians 5 gives us a picture of what this means.

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.” Ephesians 5:22-24

This passage can be very challenging for wives, understandably. Often our experience with submission to others is more domineering than healthy and respectful. Jesus teaches us that submitting to husbands as the head of a household is not demeaning or a sign of inferiority. Christ showed us in his godly example of submitting to the Father. True submission comes between two equals who humble themselves before God. Husbands need to respect this submission and love their wives well.

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.” Ephesians 5:25-28

When wives respect their husband and husbands love their wives, they are caring for each other's spiritual, emotional, and physical needs. After prioritizing God, then marriage, children are our next focus. Strong, stable homes allow children to thrive from a sense of security and dependability.

We will often fall short and hurt our loved one. When that happens, we ask and accept forgiveness from our families. We show Christ within our families not by being perfect, but through repentance and grace. We don't want to condemn or shame ourselves, our spouses, or our children.

PART II

PRACTICAL

APPLICATION

FOR LIFE

REGULAR RHYTHMS OF FAMILY

We live in a time and place of activity and busyness. Adults work and care for their children; children have school, sports, events, clubs... the list of our responsibilities and time commitments can go on and on. It is easy to feel like prioritizing time for family discipleship is impossible. While we understand there are seasons of life which are busier than others, God has built us to rely upon him first no matter the circumstances.

For a spiritual discipline to take hold within our lives, we need to pray for the willingness and knowledge to incorporate these practices into daily and weekly life. It is rare, if ever, we get the opportunity to totally overhaul our schedules or routines, so small, incremental changes to our lifestyles can lead to lasting change.

First, here are a few things to consider when you incorporate family discipleship into your lives.

Seasons, Holidays, and School

- How these affect our lives/time management
- How to integrate a focus on Christ into these rhythms
- Ideas for Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring

Rhythms of Rest

- Veritas institutes rhythms of rest as a church; families also

need to have seasons to slow down and evaluate their use of time

- Ask: Are there activities that are becoming idols?

After we consider our own family's rhythm and how we would like to begin incorporating more time with God into our daily lives, we can then break the day into time blocks; morning, afternoon, evening and night. Then discuss with your spouse and children how to best dedicate part of each time block to God. For example, prayer time in the morning, gospel-related discussion in the afternoon on the way home from school, worship songs in the evening, and bible story before bed at night.

CAPITALIZING ON THE GOSPEL

The best evangelism for those around us, including our family, is not a formal sit-down discussion about Christ and salvation, but moreso a peppering of the Gospel throughout day-to-day life. We encourage our spouse after a hard day at work or at home with the kids by pointing them to Jesus. After an argument over dishes, finances, or anything from big to small, we come back together and ask forgiveness and thank God for his grace. When playing with children, we can ask or answer questions about God and Jesus. We can find practical examples of sharing God's good news every day.

Here are a few examples of how to capitalize on the gospel in daily life:

IN THE CAR

A study completed by the AAA found that Americans spend an average of almost 300 hours in the car per year. For such a large portion of our time, we can be more intentional about giving it to God. We can do this through prayer or listening to podcasts of sermons or theological content. We can engage in conversation with our spouses or children about their day, and we can talk about how they can rely upon God in specific situations.

AT DINNER

Jesus often broke bread with people as a way to connect and share his message. Pastor Tim Chester says 'meals bring mission

into the ordinary.” We can be intentional about making our meals a time for discussion and sharing. Turn off and put away devices so that you are present with the people at your table. Ask genuine questions about everyone’s day, especially children.

BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL OR SPORTS

Kids spend much of their time at school and this is a great opportunity for them to live on mission. While parents pick up their kids, conversations with other parents about Jesus can occur organically through relationships. Parents can also shepherd their children to treat others with respect over common schoolyard disagreements.

It is easy to get carried away with competition or high-energy games. While sports can be a wonderful form of physical fitness and community, remember our identities are not first as athletes, but as believers. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians, “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.” (1 Corinthians 9:24-25) If we have our passionate energy on pleasing God, those around us will see Christ’s light in how we carry ourselves in competition and in life.

FAMILY WORSHIP

Family worship is the intentional, habitual practice of worshipping God as a family. While family worship can be spontaneous on occasion, it is right and good to plan and prepare for this time. Prioritize and schedule 10-20 minutes a day to worship the Lord together and you will see the benefits within your family. While this isn’t a huge time commitment, the time should be considered sacred for the family. It is often best to put away cell phones and other devices in order to give your attention to God and your family members.

There are three main aspects of family worship, and while what it looks like may vary from home to home, we can depend upon these main components:

1. INSTRUCTION

The reading and discussing of the bible as a family. Veritas offers a bible reading plan, *Read the Book*, which highlights an Old

Testament and a New Testament chapter each day. Families can then discuss how the text is relevant to our lives, ask questions of each other, including the kids to get them considering the meaning of the text. Daily instruction can also include scripture memorization and recitation as a family.

2. PRAYER

As parents model prayer for each other and their children, openly discussing

their needs and praying for them, it will become apparent that God's means for addressing our needs is through prayer for each other. As families begin to see each other as our first resource for prayer, the more inherent prayer for each other will become.

3. SINGING PRAISE TO GOD

When we are singing songs to the Lord, we will begin to take joy in praising and glorifying God. Most people find themselves singing the words to a song either in the car, shower, or throughout the day. We can take that enjoyment and enthusiasm for music in general and apply it to songs which edify God. Find the Veritas Church Hymnal Playlist on Spotify as an easy resource.

There are many reasons for instituting family worship; it glorifies and pleases the Lord. Our first desire should be to know and love God, and we want to pass that desire along to our children. The book of 2 Timothy shows us the importance of passing along a love and knowledge for the Lord. Paul writes to Timothy reminding him of how his mother and grandmother taught him the scriptures and how to worship the Lord while growing up. Timothy went on to lead the church of Ephesus (2 Tim 1:5, 2 Tim 3:15). Family worship can also bring a deeper sense of joy and peace to the home. We will be better prepared to handle the conflict and stresses of life if we see our home as an oasis which serves the Lord.

"Family worship time is the most important thing I do in my life. I wouldn't miss it for anything in the world. It isn't perfect, but it is critical...We must strive to have our families be mini-churches, which function as the backbone of the local church...Family worship is the foundation of child rearing. As family worship goes, so will go the family." - Joel Beeke, DesiringGod.org

“Family worship for us is fun, beautiful, and frustrating a lot of the time. I often wonder if it’s doing any good (even though I know it is!). I’m clinging to the promises that God will use this messy, beautiful family worship we do for his glory and to draw my kids to Jesus.” - John Murphy

When we think about the legacy of our families, we want our children to remember a feeling of love, passion, and joy for the Lord. (Psalm 78:5-7) We know with this desire comes the reality of our messy real world. Don’t be discouraged if family worship doesn’t seem picturesque or fruitful in that moment. God has grace for our shortcomings, and often when it seems children aren’t absorbing anything, they actually are!

GODLY DISCIPLINE

Discipline often has a negative connotation. This can come from our own experiences with unjust or harsh punishment. The root word for discipline is disciple, which is a follower or believer of a teacher. We are disciples of the greatest teacher, Christ. Because of this, we want our lives to reflect his teachings. Discipline is first training. It is daily, consistent, proactive treatment to mold a person’s thoughts and behaviors. It can be noted that we can discipline ourselves. We can train our spirits, minds, and bodies with things like prayer, reading, studying, exercising, healthy eating, scheduling, and keeping to routines. When we are talking about discipline in regard to our families, there are a few things we need to consider: our hearts, their minds, and boundaries.

OUR HEARTS

Discipline of our brothers and sisters in Christ, spouses, or other adults looks very different from discipline of children. With all discipline, we want to maintain the dignity of everyone involved and that means speaking to adults like adults and children like children (not babies).

When considering our hearts and intentions, we need to ask ourselves why we are disciplining this person. Is it out of a desire to help that person become a more godly man or woman, or is it

to be right or show our power? Men are called to lead their wives and children in the ways of the Lord and to do this with a loving heart. As his helpmate (Genesis 2:18), a wife is called to be a sounding board and voice of wisdom for her husband (Proverbs 31:21-29). Our first instinct with our loved ones should always be to hold them up and praise them, but if discipline is necessary, we need to always direct that person back to Christ.

When disciplining children, it is important for children to understand that they need to respect and obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3), but we don't want to exert power over our children for the sake of being powerful. "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord," (Ephesians 6:4). When we are overly controlling or domineering, this detracts from God's meaning in the commandment, "'Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you,' (Exodus 20:12). Learning to obey our parents is a smaller, human example of learning to obey God as our heavenly father. When God tells us, "...so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you," (Exodus 20:12) he is telling us that our parents (and we as parents) have a responsibility to shepherd children in a way that will most benefit them in this life and the next. By teaching them to be God-fearing, kind, and loving people, their lives will be examples of God's goodness. We can't protect or shelter them from all hardship or wrong-doing, but we can prepare them to handle life through their faith and the skills with which we equip them.

When disciplining, do we have a vision for the character traits we want to pass on to our children? We need to have an idea of what we want our children to be like when they are adults. We can desire for our children to be faithful, humble, disciplined, kind, generous, thoughtful, and reflective. These are just a few things to consider before, during, and after acts of discipline with a child. It is much easier to teach a child to be humble than to teach that to an adult. Small, continuous acts of discipline (and discussion of why we are disciplined) over a lifetime will foster a way of thinking about the world, ourselves, and how we interact within that world. By modeling this in our relationship with adults, children will see our example as the norm and something to strive toward.

THEIR MINDS

Every person is different, and that needs to be considered when disciplining. Adults come into relationship with preconceived notions and baggage. Also, discipline styles that work with one person may not work with the other. If we try to speak with others only in the way which works for us, we are not loving or serving them well. This means that a genuine relationship needs to be present for discipline to be effective. Someone is more likely to hear and respect criticism if it is coming from someone they know cares for them. We need to know and love the person we are disciplining; we need to know their strengths and weaknesses, what matters to them and what can deflate them. We never want to use these things as a weapon, rather a valued, well-guarded map to that person.

To add another layer of complexity (and confusion), we need to consider the circumstances around a situation when we discipline someone. What was the intention behind the action? We see that even God the Father disciplines (Hebrew 12:5-8), and Jesus dealt with people differently depending upon their personalities and the circumstances.

BOUNDARIES

Boundaries free us to live life as God intended. If we look at one of the first examples of boundaries given, the ten commandments, we see a beautiful paradox. God gave us these laws so that we could follow his way and draw closer to him. Inevitably we fail, often and epically, which only makes our need for the grace of salvation through Christ all the more evident. Paul explains this beautifully in Romans 6 when he tells us about being slaves to sin or slaves to God. Often people misguidedly think that if they don't have rules or boundaries, they are more free, but in reality, they are enslaved by their desires and wandering hearts. True freedom comes from seeking God first, experiencing salvation through Christ, and living within His guidelines for our lives.

If we translate this into boundaries within our families by setting perimeters around what we permit and what we don't, we are telling those around us how they can best love God and love us. Spouses can and should have boundaries between each other. While we have become one flesh with our partners through

marriage (Genesis 2:24), we still need to have space to maintain ourselves. It is important to note that individual quiet time isn't to prioritize ourselves, but to prioritize our personal relationships with God. In the same way we have quality time with our family, we need to have quality time with the Lord.

Children thrive when living under boundaries and structure. These help to bring a sense of security and consistency within their lives. While children may test and buck against rules, these boundaries help to shape their sense of cause and effect. Rules and consequences help them to learn in a controlled environment. If a child doesn't learn within the home that if they disobey there will be consequences, the world will teach them this in a more harsh and unforgiving way.

The bible is filled with wisdom in regard to family discipleship. Here are a few passages for your reference:

Genesis 2:24 - God first, spouse second, children third, then other relationships

Proverbs 22 - God-centered training of children will stay with them for a lifetime

Ephesians 5&6 - Christ-like relationships for husbands and wives, parents, and children

Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25 - Passing along the fear of the Lord in our daily living

Mark 12:28-34, Matthew 22:34-40 - Jesus tells us the most important commandment: Love the Lord

FAMILY MILESTONES

Milestones are the moments within our lives which have special significance to us, so therefore we want to memorialize these times. Examples of spiritual milestones include parent-child dedication, commissioning of families, marriages, baptism, first communion, anniversaries, holidays, and rites of passage. These life events are so weighty in significance that they are natural moments of reflection to consider and praise God.

How we mark these events can range from a simple photograph

or conversation to gifts and parties. The important takeaway is that we show genuine appreciation for God and the people in our lives.

Currently Veritas publicly celebrates a few milestones for a Christian family.

Parent/Child Dedication is a way for parents to publicly proclaim their intention to raise a child to know and love Christ. We believe that baptism comes after a person's understanding and proclamation of their own faith, so therefore we do not baptize babies or small children.

Baptisms are an exciting and important experience in the life of a Christian. Christ commanded us to believe and be baptized (Mark 16:16). While the act of baptism isn't what saves us, it is a public showing of an inward heart change.

Marriage is a beautiful gift from God between a man and a woman, and this union is to be celebrated and respected. When a couple has prayerfully considered and gone through premarital counseling, our pastors officiate and the whole church family celebrates.

The Member Mobilization is a way for our church family to recognize and celebrate God's call within people's lives. Many of our covenant members are called to other places either through the military, their work, or other life circumstances. God is sovereign over all situations, and while we will miss our friends and church family, we willingly send them to do God's work.

We encourage you to celebrate these milestones with your family, and also find your own unique ways of commemorating your walk with Jesus and your family's walk with Jesus.

VERITASKIDS AS A RESOURCE

HOW VERITASKIDS RELATES TO FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Since its founding in 2013, Veritas has been a church that has desired to focus on people over programs. Because of this, the

only formal ministries we officially lead are community groups and VeritasKids. Both of these focus on discipleship and relationships, but for now we will focus on VeritasKids and how it directly relates to family discipleship.

Veritas holds the belief that parents are the direct disciplers to their children, and it is our responsibility to come alongside parents to equip and guide them in that discipleship. VeritasKids offers a loving, nurturing environment and biblical instruction for children from birth through elementary age. We use the Gospel Project as our curriculum because the lessons teach the bible in a sequential order and all point to Christ as the ultimate plan of salvation from God. This way, children begin to see the story of God's love for his people, and salvation through the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ unfold throughout the entire bible, not simply the new testament.

Our desire is for parents to see their children's time in VeritasKids as one small component of a weekly, continual walk with the Lord. Parents are given an activity page relating to the Sunday lesson, and are encouraged to discuss the lesson's main points with their child throughout the week. These sheets come home with the children and include the key points and questions to help guide parents. Families can reread the biblical story with their children in the Jesus Storybook Bible (see resources section.) The Gospel Project also offers a free app for smartphones with the big ideas, games, and more. These are just a couple ideas to show how we hope to bring content to families for them to build and reinforce in whichever ways work for them.

VeritasKids desires to be a support network and resource for parents and families as they navigate the theology and daily practices of family discipleship.

THE GOSPEL STORY IN KID-FRIENDLY LANGUAGE

The gospel can be challenging to share with anyone, let alone children. Because of this, here is a kid-friendly way to explain God's plan: God created everything, including us, his children. Then we rebelled against God, and our close, personal relationship with God was broken. Throughout all human history, God was faithful and pursued his people. The best part of the story is when he sent his son to live among us, teach us and die for us, so that we can again be close with God. Jesus lived a perfect life

which none of us could do even if we tried, and then he died as a sacrifice for our sins. Everyone needs Jesus because everyone rebels against God. Even though God is perfectly strong and smart and doesn't need our help, we get to be a part of God's story and spread his love to all people.

VERITASKIDS FAMILY RESOURCE FACEBOOK PAGE

Twice a week, new posts from the VeritasKids Family Resource Facebook page offer helpful websites, articles, videos, sermons, podcasts, books, and music suggestions to fuel your family discipleship efforts. We also post questions or discussion topics to allow families to discuss together their challenges and victories in family discipleship.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For a full list of Veritas suggested books, go to our website: <http://veritasfayetteville.com/recommended-reading/>

BOOKS FOR ADULTS

- The Freedom of Self Forgetfulness by Tim Keller
- The First Five Years of Marriage by Focus on the Family
- Gospel by JD Greear
- Manhood Restored by Eric Mason
- The Disciplines of a Godly Man by Kent Hughes
- Disciplines of a Godly Woman by Barbara Hughes
- The Exemplary Husband by Stuart Scott
- The Excellent Wife by Martha Peace
- Feminine Appeal by Carolyn Mahaney
- Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens, Second Edition (Resources for Changing Lives) by Paul David Tripp
- When Sinners Say I Do by Dave Harvey
- Each for the Other by Bryan Chappell
- Sex, Romance, and the Glory of God by C.J. Mahaney
- This Momentary Marriage by John Piper
- What Did You Expect? by Paul Tripp
- The Meaning of Marriage by Tim Keller
- Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp
- Big Truths for Little Kids by Susan Hunt
- Girl Talk by Carolyn Mahaney

- Instructing a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp
- Age of Opportunity by Paul Tripp
- The 5 Love Languages of Children by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

- Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd Jones
- Our Home Is Like A Little Church by Sojourn Community Church
- What is the Church? by Sojourn Community Church
- What is the Gospel? by Sojourn Community Church
- The Ology: Ancient Truths Ever True by Marty Machowski

SERMONS

- "Family Discipleship" sermon series from The Village Church
- "What is Discipleship?" sermon series from Veritas Church

WEBSITES

- thebibleproject.com
- bible.com
- familydiscipleshipministries.org
- christiandiscipleshipministries.com
- gcdiscipleship.com
- radicalexperiment.org
- lifein6words.com
- gospelproject.com
- parentingministry.org
- bradhambbrick.com
- gcdiscipleship.com
- drjamesdobson.org
- godcenteredmom.com
- focusonthefamily.com
- desiringgod.org

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